



# Bitterroot National Forest

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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **"Bow Hunters Take Note - Area Closures Around Rombo Fire Reduced"**

Hamilton, Montana, September 15, 2007 — The Bitterroot National Forests announces that the area closure around the Rombo Fire has been reduced in size, to allow bow hunters and other recreationists access to additional lands. The new closure will go into affect at 6:00 am on Sunday, Sept 16th.

"Our goal is to open areas that have been closed due to fire activity as soon as we feel it's safe for public use. The Rombo Fire grew by 1000 acres in the past week but most of that growth occurred during the wind event on Wednesday," reports Forest Spokeswoman Nan Christianson. "We do not expect more significant growth. We appreciate folks' continuing patience with the closure that remains in place."

Detailed information about the modified closure around Rombo is available at the Forest's offices. In general, the closure runs from Porcupine Saddle northwest around the Fire Creek drainage then southwest around the upper end of Base Creek to Wiles Peak, south-southeast to Overwhich Creek, northeast along Straight and Colter Creeks then north back to Porcupine Saddle.

Fire line repair work is nearly complete on **Rombo**. The Forest expects that all heavy equipment will be off the fire by Monday. Hand crews will continue to seed and fertilize, and monitor fire activity.

Two new starts were generated by last (Friday) night's thunderstorm in the Skalkaho drainage. The **Bad News Camp** fire is located just off the Skalkaho Rye Road, and is approximately ½ - ¾ acres in size. Three engines with 7 crewmembers joined 4 additional fire fighters and a helicopter doing bucket work to contain this start. The **More Bad News** fire is located 2 miles east of the first start, within the 2000 burned area. Limited

suppression work was initiated this morning but firefighters were pulled off the fire due to the number of dangerous snags in the area. There is minimal fire activity on this second start.

The **Wildland Fire Use fires** continue to be sporadically active also. While most of this activity is in the backcountry and will likely impact few people, there is enough active burning near the Magruder Crossing and Observation Point – both within the Magruder Corridor – that travelers through the area should expect occasional delays.

There is a chance for additional thunderstorms in the area this evening. Temperatures are expected to remain cooler through the weekend, further minimizing fire activity.

Forest managers continue to review fire-related closures and fire restrictions, and these will be modified or lessened as quickly as is deemed safe. Areas of the Bitterroot National Forest outside the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness remains under Stage II fire restrictions while the area encompassed by the Selway-Bitterroot remains under Stage I restrictions.

The Forest Fire Information Desk is no longer staffed on weekends but current information is available at any of the Forest's offices throughout the week.

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